



BOO TIPS A PARENT'S GUIDE

WELCOME PARENTS AND GUARDIANS!

Thanks for joining the CDCR Parent Patrol by taking part in this educational exercise to help us keep your kids safe. Together, we'll teach California's children how to spot and avoid potential sexual predators - not just on Halloween, but all the time.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Adult Parole Operations wants you and your children to have a safe and fun Halloween. On Halloween night, we'll be out in force statewide for Operation Boo 2017. It's the 24th year that we've been imposing special conditions of parole on known sex offenders supervised by CDCR. The conditions include:

- Setting special curfew hours when sex offenders aren't allowed to have their porch lights on and can't have Halloween decorations on their home, offer trick-or-treat candy, or answer the door.
- Ordering transient sex-offenders in some areas to report to selected centers where they will be watched carefully during safe trick-or-treating hours of 5-10 p.m.
- Performing compliance checks on sex offenders. CDCR's Parole and GPS enforcement agents will do this in conjunction with local law enforcement partners all across the state.

We'll be keeping a watchful eye so you can be out having fun with your kids.

*But parents need to know that only a percentage of all sex offenders in California are under supervision by CDCR. Awareness can go a long way in helping keep children safe – not just on Halloween, but all the time.

(*Per the Megan's Law website, there are 76,155 registered sex offenders in California. As of October 6, 2017, there are 8,949 registered sex offenders on parole. That's about 12% of the total known sex offenders in the state.)

EASY, STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS TO HELP INCREASE YOUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY

A FEW DAYS BEFORE HALLOWEEN:

1. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with information about the latest methods for helping young children detect potentially dangerous adult behavior. It's important to note that most sexual crimes against children are not committed by strangers. In fact, the California Department of Justice's Megan's Law website says that 90% of child victims know their offender, with almost half of the offenders being a family member. Of sexual assaults against people age 12 and up, approximately 80% of the victims know the offender.

So we've listed several website locations with tips on how to talk to your children about dangerous behaviors by any adult, not just strangers. The tips were compiled by various government agencies and advocacy groups and their experts. Please familiarize yourself with them by clicking below.

California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General

How to protect yourself and your family:

https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/Education_ProtectYourself.aspx

Polly Klaas Foundation

What to teach your kids: "Dangerous Adult Behaviors"

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/talk-to-strangers.html>

Sex Offenders: "What should you tell your children?"

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/sexoffender3-1.html>

Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

Prevention Tip Sheets: "Talking to Children and Teens"

http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids

2. Once you pick the tips that you feel comfortable sharing with your family, please take a few minutes to go over the information with them. If you'd like, you can do it while the children color the special printout on the next page - the "Operation Boo Parent Patrol Badge." This fun exercise will give you a non-threatening opportunity to talk to your kids about spotting dangerous adult behaviors.

FAMILY COLORING ACTIVITY
OPERATION BOO
PARENT PATROL BADGE



Once colored, cut out the Parent Patrol Badge (above) and attach it to your corkboard or fridge as a reminder to the kids to follow your safety tips.

AT LEAST A DAY BEFORE TRICK-OR-TREATING:

1. The California Megan's Law Sex Offender Locator may be accessed at this link: <https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/Disclaimer.aspx>. (For languages other than English please use the language selector.)
2. Once on the Megan's Law website, follow the instructions to check the area in which you'll be trick-or-treating so you can spot the homes of known sex offenders. If you'd like, map out the route for your family where you feel comfortable taking your children. (*Per the Megan's Law Website, "please note that: California [Penal Code § 290.46](#) mandates the posting categories and who can be disclosed on the Public Megan's Law website. This statute also specifies that certain registrants can apply to be excluded from public disclosure on the website."*) [Updated numbers of registrants and the numbers of sex offenders who are not required to register are available on that site and can be accessed from this link.](#)
3. Familiarize yourself with the special Operation Boo conditions of parole for sex offenders in California. The Special Conditions of Parole for sex-offenders on Halloween night are:
 - A 5 p.m. – 10 p.m. curfew during which sex-offender parolees must remain indoors;
 - All exterior lights of their homes must be turned off so that it looks as if no one is home, which discourages children from approaching;
 - No offering of Halloween candy and no Halloween decorations are allowed;
 - During the curfew, sex-offender parolees can only open the door to respond to law enforcement, such as parole agents who are patrolling their caseload to ensure compliance.



ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT:

1. Please do not attempt to take any enforcement action yourself. If you feel someone is breaking the law, please call your local law enforcement agency by dialing 911.



2. Have a fun trick-or-treat experience knowing you've taken precautions to keep your children safe from sexual predators - not just on Halloween, but all the time. We've chosen Halloween as a good time to make parents and kids aware of sexual predators. However, instances of sexual abuse have not been prevalent on Halloween night in California during the two decades since Operation Boo started. Sexual predators shy away from scrutiny and now you're a part of the Operation Boo Parent Patrol helping shine an even brighter light on predators.

THANKS FOR PARTICIPATING IN OPERATION BOO!